



Rockford Summit on Racism 2025

In May of 2025 there was a “Rockford Summit on Racism” held with over 300 Rockford folks in attendance.

The following Short-Term Goals and Long-Term Goals came out of facilitated conversations with these community members.

The question now is:

How can we move forward toward accomplishing these goals, and how would you like to be involved?

Short-Term Actions (Individual Actions)

1. Get connected; reach out, meet your neighbors, meet new people; wish ‘good morning’ to everyone you see.
2. Exchange contact info with new people you meet to continue the conversation.
3. Step outside your comfort to have conversations in your spheres of influence
4. Be intentional to show an act of kindness that takes you out of your comfort zone.
5. Reach out and meet a new neighbor each month.

Long-Term Goals (Coalition Led)

Would you like to be part of a Coalition that leads one of these Goals? Email: annrundall@gmail.com

1. Create a **community-based funding source** for direct funding of neighborhood groups based on their expressed needs and for organizations who are working to eliminate racism and create a culture of belonging.
2. Plan **community events** with DIVERSE food, music, activities for all ages – with education on different cultures. **Learn about cultures** in meaningful ways.
3. One stop shop for **communication** of:
 - Available community resources (health care, food, housing, daycare, transportation for students and employees)
 - Events planned in Rockford that are inclusive & welcoming to “All” people
4. Initiate a call to action to “**All Faith Groups**” to create space for addressing and discussing eliminating racism.
5. Create an organizational level of a **culture of belonging**
(Employers, Faith-based organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Schools, Businesses, etc.)
 - A. Utilize intentional dialogues, trainings, and accountability.
 - B. Build a Social Media Campaign that includes:
 - Positive storytelling about diverse residents
 - Challenges to the community to create belonging
 - Incorporating community partners
 - Tracking engagement